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TECHNOLOGY

BY SPENCER SHERMAN

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) -- A U.S. ATTORNEY SAYS EFFORTS TO CUT OFF JAPANESE THEFT OF TECHNOLOGY IN CALIFORNIA'S SILICON VALLEY WILL BE FUNNELED INTO AN UMBRELLA TASK FORCE INVOLVING THE CIA AND THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

ATTORNEY JOSEPH RUSSONIELLO SAID THE ROLE OF THE AGENCIES WOULD BE TO SUPPLY INFORMATION FROM INSIDE JAPAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES ABOUT WHERE THE TECHNOLOGY MAY BE USED IF IT GETS OUT OF THE UNITED STATES.

RUSSONIELLO, IN A WEEKEND INTERVIEW WITH UPI, SAID PLANS ARE COMPLETE FOR THE "CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE" TO FIGHT ILLEGAL EXPORT OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY ARE READY. HE SAID THE UNIT WOULD BEGIN FUNCTIONING AS SOON AS FUNDS ARE ALLOCATED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

THE DEPTH OF THE PROBLEM BECAME EVIDENT LAST SPRING WHEN THE FBI CONDUCTED AN UNDERCOVER OPERATION IN THE SILICON VALLEY THAT LED TO THE INDICTMENT OF JAPANESE INDUSTRIAL GIANTS HITACHI LTD. AND MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC CORP. AND SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS ON CHARGES OF TRYING TO ILLEGALLY BUY COMPUTER SECRETS FROM IBM.

THE NEW FORCE WILL INCLUDE AGENTS FROM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, THE FBI, THE CUSTOMS SERVICE AND THE POSTAL SERVICE AS WELL AS THE CIA AND DIA, RUSSONIELLO SAID.

THE CORE OF THE TASK FORCE WILL BE SEVEN ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEYS BASED IN SAN JOSE TO COORDINATE ACTIVITIES AMONG THE VARIOUS AGENCIES AND THE U.S. HIGH TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN THE SILICON VALLEY AND ELSEWHERE.

RUSSONIELLO, CHIEF U.S. ATTORNEY IN SAN FRANCISCO, SAID HE IS CONFIDENT ATTORNEY GENERAL WILLIAM FRENCH SMITH WOULD APPROVE THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THE TASK FORCE.

HE SAID THE TASK FORCE WILL UNDERTAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CASES THAT ARE NOW BEING HANDLED AD HOC THAT RELATE TO SILICON VALLEY AND WILL THEN PULL IN THE DIFFERENT AGENCY COMPONENTS TO WORK THOSE CASES JOINTLY -- COMMERCE ENFORCEMENT PEOPLE, FBI, CUSTOMS, POSTAL -- AND START ESTABLISHING THEIR LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH DIA AND CIA.

RUSSONIELLO SAID HE HOPES TO SET UP A COMPUTERIZED INFORMATION BANK ON THE HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY TO KEEP TRACK OF WHAT TYPES OF HARDWARE AND PROGRAMMING MIGHT BE THE TARGET OF FOREIGN THIEVES.

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SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) -- POLICE MONDAY INVESTIGATED THE DISCOVERY OF \$50,000 WORTH OF COMPONENTS STOLEN FROM A SILICON VALLEY FIRM AND FOUND AT ANOTHER COMPANY'S BOOTH AT THIS WEEKEND'S CPH'88 COMPUTER FAIR HELD AT THE MOSCONE CONVENTION CENTER.

SCOTT ANDERSON, PRESIDENT OF JADE COMPUTER PRODUCTS, SAID HE DISCOVERED THE COMPONENTS SUNDAY WHILE VISITING THE BOOTH OF ITAT ASSOCIATES OF SAN FRANCISCO.

HE SAID HE ALERTED SECURITY GUARDS AND POLICE WHEN HE FOUND THE COMPONENTS, STOLEN EIGHT MONTHS AGO FROM THE SUNNYVALE FIRM AS PART OF A \$100,000 BURGLARY.

NO ARRESTS WERE MADE, BUT POLICE LAUNCHED AN INVESTIGATION.

THE INCIDENT WAS THE ONLY MAJOR BLEMISH ON CPH'88, A THREE-DAY FAIR THAT BROUGHT OUT MORE THAN 60,000 PEOPLE -- THREE TIMES THE NUMBER EXPECTED -- DESPITE STORMY WEATHER.

THE 250-PLUS EXHIBITS RANGED FROM THE MICROCOMPUTER INDUSTRY GIANT, DIGITAL RESEARCH, THE COMPANY THAT CREATED CPH (CONTROL PROGRAM FOR MICROCOMPUTERS, THE "BASIC TRAINING" THAT ENABLES COMPUTERS TO COMPUTE), TO THE PICKLES AND TROUT, A TWO-WAY BUSINESS THAT GOT ITS START BECAUSE THE NAME SOUNDED SO GOOD.